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HOUSE BILL 653 By
Westmoreland

SENATE BILL 1182
By Ramsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, relative to methadone.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, or any other law to the contrary, during the one-year period immediately following the effective date of this act, the health facilities commission shall have no authority to approve a certificate of need for any non-residential methadone treatment facility which would create, expand or otherwise locate additional methadone treatment programs or medication units anywhere in this state, and the board for licensing health care facilities shall have no authority to issue or renew a license for any non-residential methadone treatment facility which would create, expand or otherwise locate additional methadone treatment programs or medication units anywhere in this state.

SECTION 2.

(a) A special committee to study methadone is hereby created. The committee shall consist of six (6) members, three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the senate and three (3) of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. The organizational meeting of the committee shall be convened by the speaker of the senate. At the organization meeting, the committee shall elect from its membership a chair, a vice chair and such other officers as it shall deem necessary.

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(b) During the one-year moratorium established by Section 1 of this act, the special committee shall perform a comprehensive analysis of methadone and its usage in this state. The committee shall study availability, individual and societal benefits, individual and societal costs, as well as the efficacy and efficiency of governmental efforts to monitor, control and regulate the drug. The committee shall examine, compare and contrast the operations of for-profit methadone treatment facilities and the operations of not-for-profit methadone treatment facilities. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the 1998 session of the one-hundredth general assembly, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

(c) The special committee shall be vested with all committee powers set forth in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapters 3 and 4. While engaged in the business of the special committee or any subcommittee thereof, each member shall be paid expenses as in attending legislative sessions, in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.